Loss due to Earthquake and Flood Havoc in Karnataka

126. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss of life and property during recent earthquake and flood havoc in Karnataka; and

(b) the relief requested by the State and to what extent Government released help in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The details of loss of life and damage to property due to the recent earthquake and rains/floods in Karnataka as reported by the State Government are as follows:—

	Earthquake	Rains /Floods
Loss of human lives	10	77
Loss of livestock .	26	1561
No. of Houses Damaged Fully . . .	216	15331
Partially . . .	22748	184834
Damage to crops (in lakh ha.) . .	—	2.98
Estimated loss to public property (Rs. in lakh) . . .	329.52	80.56

(b) The State Government has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance of Rs. 200.00 crores. An amount of Rs. 10.125 crores being the Central share of two quarterly instalments of the Calamity relief Fund due for the year 1994-95 has been released in advance to the State Government.

Impact of Economic Reforms on Agricultural Sector

127. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of economic reforms on agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the imbalance between industry and agriculture by reducing the protection of industry and encouraging the agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution (modified) prepared by the Government, copies of which have been placed in Rajya Sabha on 14th May, 1993, has inter-alia focussed on the following areas of reforms:—

(i) Arresting decelerating trends in capital formation in agriculture and accelerating development of supportive infrastructure.

(ii) Enhancing credit flows in agriculture.

(iii) Improvement in marketing of agricultural produce in different region of the country and abroad.

(iv) Development of Post-harvest technologies and setting up agro-processing units in rural areas.

(v) Ensuring remunerative prices to the farming community.

(vi) Expansion and diversification of agriculture produce to promote export of agricultural commodities, and

(vii) Creating a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry and bestowing similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. However, care would be taken to ensure that the agriculturists are not subjected to regulatory and tax collection machinery of the Government.

The impact of economic reforms could be assessed after these have been under implementation for some time.

(c) Yes, Sir.